

Remarks

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the Examiner's allowance of claims 8, 13, 21 and 26-31 in the above-captioned application. Applicants submit this Amendment prior to payment of the issue fee in this application.

The Amendment corrects a formal matter without changing the scope of the claims. Applicants request the foregoing Amendment in order to properly acknowledge United States government support for this invention. This Amendment does not add new matter. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that this Amendment be entered.

Reconsideration of this application and entry of the above Amendment is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.



Heidi L. Kraus
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 43,730

Date: September 8, 2004

1100 New York Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20005-3934
(202) 371-2600